

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A pacifier to be worn in a mouth of a user, the pacifier comprising:

a shield having a substantially planar body and further having an interior surface directed toward a rear of the mouth of the user when the shield is worn;

a shelf connected to the interior surface of the shield wherein the shelf abuts the interior surface of the shield wherein the shelf has a substantially planar body and further wherein the shelf is substantially U-shaped; and

a bulb attached to the shelf wherein the bulb has a length defined between a first end and a second end wherein the first end is connected to the shelf and the second end extends rearward into the mouth wherein a perimeter of the bulb at the first end is less than a perimeter of the bulb at the second end and further wherein the second end of the bulb extends downward with respect to the first end of the bulb.

Claim 2 (original): The pacifier of Claim 1 further comprising:

a ring attached to the shield.

Claim 3 (original): The pacifier of Claim 1 further comprising:

lingual tabs integrally formed with the shelf wherein the lingual tabs extend rearward into the mouth of the user.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The pacifier of Claim 1 further comprising:

walls extending from the shelf wherein the walls do not contact the interior surface of the shield.

Claim 5 (original): The pacifier of Claim 1 further comprising:

a depression within the shelf wherein the depression is substantially U-shaped.

Claim 6 (original): The pacifier of Claim 1 further comprising:

a liquid within the shelf wherein the liquid can be heated or cooled.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A pacifier worn in a mouth of a user, the pacifier comprising:

a shield having a substantially planar body; and
a shelf attached to the shield wherein the shelf has a first end, a second end opposite to the first end and a midline in the middle of the first end wherein the shelf is substantially U-shaped and wherein the shelf has a width defined between a first end and a second end upper positions and lower positions of the shelf wherein the width a first portion of the shelf between at the first end or the midline and the second end has a thickness which is less is thicker than the width a first thickness at the first end and a second thickness at the second end; and

a depression within the shelf wherein the depression is substantially U-shaped.

Claim 8 (original): The pacifier of Claim 7 further comprising:

a gel stored within the shelf wherein the gel maintains a

temperature for the shelf.

Claim 9 (original): The pacifier of Claim 7 further comprising:
lingual tabs extending from the shelf.

Claim 10 (original): The pacifier of Claim 7 further comprising:
a second portion between the first end and the second end
wherein the second portion is flat.

Claim 11 (original): The pacifier of Claim 7 further comprising:
an isthmus connecting the shield and the shelf.

Claim 12 (original): The pacifier of Claim 7 further comprising:
a ring attached to the shield.

Claim 13 (original): The pacifier of Claim 7 further comprising:
a bulb connected to the shelf wherein the bulb extends
rearward into the mouth of the user.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A pacifier to be worn in a mouth of
a user, the pacifier comprising:

a shield having a flat surface which contacts a front of the
mouth of the user when the shield is worn;

a shelf attached to the flat surface of the shield wherein the
shelf is defined by a plane wherein the shelf is substantially U-
shaped and defines an interior surface; and

lingual tabs integrally formed with the shelf along the
interior surface wherein each of the lingual tabs have an apex
which extends rearward into the mouth of the user and further
wherein the lingual tabs extend downward with respect to the plane

of the shelf.

Claim 15 (original): The pacifier of Claim 14 further comprising:

a bulb attached to the shelf wherein the bulb has a first end connected to the shelf and a second end wherein the first end has a first thickness which is less than a second thickness at the second end.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The pacifier of Claim 14 wherein each of the lingual tabs extends posteriorly or rearward.

Claim 17 (original): The pacifier of Claim 14 wherein the shelf has a substantially planar body.

Claim 18 (original): The pacifier of Claim 14 wherein the shield is constructed from a light-absorbent material.

Claim 19 (original): The pacifier of Claim 14 wherein the shelf has a depression wherein the depression is substantially U-shaped.

Claim 20 (original): The pacifier of Claim 14 further comprising:

a liquid stored within the shelf wherein the liquid maintains a temperature for the shelf.

Claim 21 (new): A pacifier to be worn in a mouth of a user having teeth and gum tissue, the pacifier comprising:

a generally U-shaped shelf having a length defined between a first end and a second end opposite to the first end wherein the shelf has a first side and a second side opposite to the first side wherein the first end and the second end have a depression between the first side and the second side wherein the first side of the shelf and the second side of the shelf have a first thickness

wherein the shelf has a second thickness at the depression wherein the second thickness is less than the first thickness and further wherein the first side and the second side are bulbous.

Claim 22 (new): The pacifier of Claim 21 further comprising:

a bulb attached to second side of the shelf.

Claim 23 (new): The pacifier of Claim 21 further comprising:

a shield attached to the first side of the shelf.

Claim 24 (new): The pacifier of Claim 21 wherein a portion of the shelf is flat between the first end and the second end.

Claim 25 (new): The pacifier of Claim 21 wherein the length of the shelf is based on the teeth of the user.

Claim 26 (new): The pacifier of Claim 21 further comprising:

a ring connected to the shelf.

Claim 27 (new): The pacifier of Claim 1 further comprising:

lingual tabs attached to the second side of the shelf.

Claim 28 (new): The pacifier of Claim 21 further comprising:

walls integrally formed with the shelf wherein the walls guide the teeth of the user.

Claim 29 (new): The pacifier of Claim 21 further comprising:

a gel inside the shelf.

Claim 30 (new): The pacifier of Claim 21 wherein the shelf is made from a material which is locatable in a dark environment.

Claim 31 (new): The pacifier of Claim 21 wherein the first side and the second side together with the depression between the first side

and the second side surround the gum tissue in the mouth of the user.

Claim 32 (new): A pacifier to be worn in a mouth of a user having teeth and gum tissue, the pacifier comprising:

a generally U-shaped shelf having a length defined between a first end and a second end opposite to the first end wherein the shelf has a first side and a second side opposite to the first side wherein the first end and the second end have a depression between the first side and the second side wherein the first side of the shelf and the second side of the shelf have a first thickness wherein the shelf has a second thickness at the depression wherein the second thickness is less than the first thickness and further wherein the first side and the second side are bulbous; and

walls integrally formed with the shelf wherein the walls guide the teeth of the user.

Claim 33 (new): The pacifier of Claim 32 further comprising:

a lingual tab extending from the shelf.

Claim 34 (new): The pacifier of Claim 32 further comprising:

a gel inside the shelf.

Claim 35 (new): The pacifier of Claim 32 further comprising:

a ring attached to the shelf.

Claim 36 (new): The pacifier of Claim 32 further comprising:

a bulb extending from the shelf.

Claim 37 (new): A pacifier to be worn in a mouth of a user having

teeth and gum tissue, the pacifier comprising:

a generally U-shaped shelf having a length defined between a first end and a second end opposite to the first end wherein the shelf has a first side and a second side opposite to the first side wherein the first end and the second end have a depression between the first side and the second side wherein the first side of the shelf and the second side of the shelf have a first thickness wherein the shelf has a second thickness at the depression wherein the second thickness is less than the first thickness wherein the first side and the second side are bulbous and further wherein the shelf is made from a material wherein the material is locatable in a dark environment.

Claim 38 (new): The pacifier of Claim 37 further comprising:

walls integrally formed with the shelf wherein the walls guide the teeth of the user.

Claim 39 (new): The pacifier of Claim 37 further comprising:

a lingual tab extending from the shelf.

Claim 40 (new): The pacifier of Claim 37 further comprising:

a gel inside the shelf.

Claim 41 (new): The pacifier of Claim 37 further comprising:

a ring attached to the shelf.

Claim 42 (new): The pacifier of Claim 37 further comprising:

a bulb extending from the shelf.

Claim 43 (new): A method for maintaining proper dentition of the

user, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a first pacifier to be worn in a mouth of the user wherein the first pacifier has a first shelf and a first ring attached to a first shield wherein a first bulb is attached to the first shelf wherein the first bulb extends toward a rear of the mouth of the user when the first pacifier is worn and further wherein the first shelf contacts teeth of the user when the first pacifier is worn; and

providing a second pacifier to be worn in the mouth of the user wherein the second pacifier has a second shelf and a second ring attached to a second shield wherein a second bulb is attached to the second shelf wherein the second shield is smaller than the first shield and the second bulb is smaller than the first bulb wherein the second bulb extends toward the rear of the mouth of the user when the second pacifier is worn and further wherein the second shelf contacts teeth of the user when the second pacifier is worn.

Claim 44 (new): The pacifier of Claim 43 further comprising:

providing an extension of the second shelf or a third shelf to be worn in the mouth of a user.

Claim 45 (new): The pacifier of Claim 43 further comprising:

attaching a lingual tab to the first shelf and the second shelf.

Claim 46 (new): The pacifier of Claim 43 further comprising:

providing a gel within the first shelf, the second shelf and the third shelf.